

SENATE BILL 2488
By McNally

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 63, relative to the protection of patients from the interchange of a particular class of drugs.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. The title of this act is, and may be cited as the "Prescription Refill Safety Act".

SECTION 2. For the purposes of this act, "narrow therapeutic index drugs" (NTI) means those pharmaceuticals having a narrowly defined range between risk and benefit. NTI drugs are drugs used in the treatment of a number of disease states including, but not limited to, arrhythmia, stroke, epilepsy, asthma, and depression. NTI drugs have less than a two-fold difference in the minimum toxic concentration and minimum effective concentration in the blood or are those drug product formulations that exhibit limited or erratic absorption, and wide patient pharmacokinetic variability that requires blood-level monitoring.

SECTION 3. A list of NTI drugs shall be maintained by the Tennessee board of medical examiners. The drugs covered in such list initially shall include, but shall not be limited to, carbamazepine, digoxin, levothyroxine, lithium carbonate, phenytoin, procainamide HCL, quinidine, theophylline, valproic acid, and warfarin sodium. This list shall be reviewed and amended at the discretion of either the Tennessee board of medical examiners or the Tennessee board of pharmacy.

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SECTION 4. A prescription for an NTI drug shall be refilled using only the same drug product by the same manufacturer that the pharmacist last dispensed under the prescription. A pharmacist may substitute or interchange an NTI drug, as identified in Section 3 above, only with the knowledge of the patient's prescriber.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.